

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A string type air damper comprising:  
  
a cylinder formed in a tubular shape, defining a guide hole at one end portion thereof;  
  
a piston, which moves in the cylinder;  
  
a helical spring for biasing the piston toward the other end portion of the cylinder; and  
  
a string member guided from inside of the cylinder to outside thereof through the  
guide hole, wherein:  
  
the piston and the string member are integrally formed[.]; and  
  
a reinforcing plate comprising a material which is different than a material of the  
piston and string member, attached to the piston as a mount for receiving the helical spring.
  
2. (Currently Amended) ~~The string type air damper according to claim 1, wherein:~~ A  
string type air damper comprising:  
  
a cylinder formed in a tubular shape, defining a guide hole at one end portion thereof;  
  
a piston, which moves in the cylinder;  
  
a helical spring for biasing the piston toward the other end portion of the cylinder; and  
  
a string member guided from inside of the cylinder to outside thereof through the  
guide hole, wherein:  
  
the piston and the string member are integrally formed;  
  
the string member branches into a plurality of portions and connects with the piston at  
a base end portion thereof; and  
  
the portions come together at a forward end portion of the string member.

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3. (Currently Amended) ~~The string type air damper according to claim 1, wherein:~~ A string type air damper comprising:

a cylinder formed in a tubular shape, defining a guide hole at one end portion thereof;

a piston, which moves in the cylinder;

a helical spring for biasing the piston toward the other end portion of the cylinder; and

a string member guided from inside of the cylinder to outside thereof through the

guide hole, wherein:

the piston and the string member are integrally formed; and,

the string member has a belt shape;

the guide hole of the cylinder has a flat opening and a smooth arcuate face continuing to a wide width edge of the opening; and

the string member having the belt shape is bent and guided along the arcuate face of the guide hole.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The string type air damper according to claim 1, wherein:~~

~~the piston and the string member are formed of a first material;~~

~~the material of the reinforcing plate is formed of a second material which is harder than the material of the piston and string member. first material; and~~

~~the reinforcing plate is attached to the piston to serve as a mount for receiving the helical springs.~~

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5. (Original) A string type air damper comprising:

a cylinder formed in a tubular shape;

a piston, which moves in the cylinder;

a helical spring for biasing the piston toward one end portion of the cylinder;

a guide cap attached to the other end portion of the cylinder and defining a guide hole;

and,

a string member guided from inside of the cylinder to outside thereof through the guide hole, wherein:

the guide cap and the string member are formed integrally; and

the string member is hooked to the piston within the cylinder and is guided to the outside thereof.

6. (Original) The string type air damper according to claim 5, wherein:

the string member branches into a plurality of portions;

a base end portion of the string member is connected to the guide cap;

the plurality of portions come together at a forward end portion of the string member;

and

the portions are hooked at the piston.

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7. (New) A method for manufacturing an integral piston and string member for a string type air damper comprising:

providing a mold for molding the integral piston and string member comprising a first mold for molding the piston separable from a second mold for molding a forward end portion of the string member;

injecting a resin into the mold for molding the integral piston and string member; and  
elongating an intermediate portion of the string member by separating the first mold and the second mold while cooling the first mold and the second mold.

8. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein the string member comprises a plurality of portions which are elongated.

9. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein the string member comprises a belt shape.